

**REMARKS**

In the Office Action, the examiner notes Group I. claims 1-12 are drawn to a method and apparatus for removing contaminants including a pair of electrodes wherein the spacing between the plates is non-uniform and the electrodes are oriented orthogonal to the inlet and outlet ports so that the electrodes interleave to define a flow path, classified in Class 204, subclass 554, Group II. Claims 13-30 are drawn to a method and apparatus for removing contaminants including a plurality of contaminant separation sectors each including a pair of electrodes wherein the spacing between the plates is uniform and the sectors are oriented along planes and in distinct layers, classified in Class 204, subclass 554, and Group III. Claims 31-36 are drawn to a method of removing contaminants including providing a magnetic field generator and providing a plurality of electrodes with spaced-apart plates, classified in Class 204, subclass 557.

The examiner indicates a response to this Office Action must include an election of the invention to be examined be made, even though the requirement be traversed.

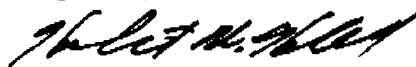
Applicant elects Invention Group II. Claims 13-30 drawn to a method and apparatus for removing contaminants including a plurality of contaminant separation sectors each including a pair of electrodes wherein the spacing between the plates is uniform and the sectors are oriented along planes and in distinct layers, classified in Class 204, subclass 554.

Group I. claims 1-12 drawn to a method and apparatus for removing contaminants including a pair of electrodes wherein the spacing between the plates is non-uniform and the electrodes are oriented orthogonal to the inlet and outlet ports so that the electrodes interleave to define a flow path, classified in Class 204, subclass 554 have been cancelled.

Group III. Claims 31-36 drawn to a method of removing contaminants including providing a magnetic field generator and providing a plurality of electrodes with spaced-apart plates, classified in Class 204, subclass 557 have been cancelled and are being submitted in a divisional application.

No additional fee is required for the newly submitted claims. The filing fee paid was for 36 total claims of which 5 were independent. After the cancellation of Claims 1-12, 23-24 and 31-36, the total number claims is 16 of which 2 are independent.

Respectfully submitted,



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